

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 19959 011804Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

DODE-00 ACDA-12 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /027 W

-----022046 011815Z /53

O R 011743Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3621

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 19959

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO AWACS MARR

SUBJECT: DECEMBER DPC: NATO AWACS

REFS: (A) STATE 286270 DTG 010029Z DEC 77

(B) USNATO 12032 DTG 010958Z DEC 77

BEGIN SUMMARY. SENIOR DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS STATE

THAT MINISTER LEBER WILL BE UNABLE AT THE DPC TO

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PLEDGE ANY GERMAN FUNDS FOR THE COMMON COMPUTER R&D.

WHEN IT APPROVED THE \$4.5 MILLION CONTRIBUTION FOR

PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES IN 1976, THE BUNDESTAG

SPECIFIED THAT NO ADDITIONAL FRG MONEY COULD BE SPENT

UNTIL A FINAL DECISION ON AWACS AS A WHOLE HAD BEEN

MADE. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON MAJOR GENERAL BRANDT, DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL/MILITARY AFFAIRS IN THE FMOD, ON DECEMBER 1 TO URGE FRG SUPPORT FOR SYG LUNS' PROPOSALS ON AWACS, AS INSTRUCTED REF (A). ACCOUNT WAS TAKEN OF THE POINTS MADE BY USNATO IN REF (B).

2. BRANDT AND COLONEL SCHMIDT-PETRI, THE FMOD AWACS EXPERT, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, STATED THAT THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR COMPUTER R&D POSED A REAL PROBLEM. BRANDT NOTED THAT THE BUNDESTAG BUDGET COMMITTEE HAD MADE AVAILABLE \$4.5 MILLION A YEAR AND A HALF AGO AS A GERMAN CONTRIBUTION FOR WHAT WAS INITIALLY DESCRIBED AS "LONG LEAD-TIME ITEMS" AND LATER CHANGED TO "STUDY PROPOSALS." IN APPROVING THIS CONTRIBUTION, THE COMMITTEE SPECIFIED THAT NO FURTHER GERMAN MONEY WAS TO BE SPENT BEFORE A FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON THE AWACS PROGRAM AS A WHOLE.

3. THIS STIPULATION HAD THE BINDING EFFECT OF LAW, BRANDT CONTINUED, AND MINISTER LEBER WOULD THUS NOT BE IN A POSITION ON DECEMBER 6 TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF A PROPOSAL CALLING FOR AN ADDITIONAL GERMAN CONTRIBUTION -- "WHETHER \$1 MILLION OR 20,000 MARKS."

4. ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN A CHANGE IN THE 1976 BUDGET COMMITTEE RULING, BRANDT
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SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD ALMOST BE EASIER TO REACH AN EARLY DECISION ON THE ENTIRE AWACS PROGRAM. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO TELL HOW SENTIMENT ON THAT ISSUE WAS RUNNING OR WHETHER A FINAL DECISION COULD BE REACHED BY THE MAY MINISTERIAL. HE WAS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE BUNDESTAG MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE AWACS DEMONSTRATION THIS PAST WEEK HAD BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED, AND HE NOTED THAT THE PRESS ALSO -- WITH ONLY ONE EXCEPTION -- HAD TREATED THE E-3A POSITIVELY.

5. EMBOFF STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE FOR STANDARDIZATION OF HAVING THE COMPUTER R&D FUNDS AVAILABLE BY JANUARY. BRANDT ACKNOWLEDGED THE POINT BUT WAS UNABLE TO OFFER ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THE PROBLEM COULD BE SURMOUNTED. HE NOTED THAT THE ISSUE WAS QUITE NEW, AS THE FRG HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$5 MILLION UNTIL THE NOVEMBER 21 NATIONAL EXPERTS MEETING. THE ONLY SUGGESTION HIS STAFF WAS ADVANCING TO LEBER WAS THAT THE SHORFALL BE MADE UP BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAD NOT CONTRIBUTED TO THE PRELIMINARY \$15 MILLION FUND.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, ALLIANCE, AIR DEFENSE, WARNING SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 01-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN19959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770445-1222
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712106/aaaadmfe.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 286270, 77 USNATO 12032
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 115463
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DECEMBER DPC: NATO AWACS
TAGS: MARR, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/40fecefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009